Our school at a glance

Students

Wade High School is a comprehensive co-educational servicing the large regional Griffith Community. Our student population in 2012 was 840. Students come from a range of ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Indian, Italian, Islander, Anglo, Turkish, and Afghani. The school also caters for a significant group of students with learning and physical disabilities.

Staff

Wade High School’s teaching staff consists of a full range from very experienced classroom teachers to new and beginning teachers. Our executive staff are experienced and committed to ensuring excellent educational outcomes for all students. Our teachers are supported by a strong group of support staff consisting of our Support & Administration Officers, our Grounds staff and our Learning and Support Officers.

Significant programs and initiatives

Significant programs conducted by our school include:

- The Middle School Project
- Thinking Thursday
- Learning Centre
- Learning & Support Program
- HSC Program
- Cultural & Co-curricular Activities including Debating, Music & Drama
- Sport
- Student Volunteering
- Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)
- Student Representative Council
- Gifted & Talented Program
- Special Education Programs
- Acceleration Program

Student achievement in 2012

Wade High School students have achieved great success in a wide range of activities. Our student leaders have facilitated the schools development of the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) process by developing and teaching lessons to other students.

There have been significant improvements in NAPLAN achievements in both Literacy and Numeracy.

Our sporting teams and individuals have been extremely successful as have our students in cultural activities such as music, drama, and public speaking. These achievements were showcased at the annual school Sports Awards Presentation, the performance night (MAAD Night) and at Presentation Night.

Congratulations to the Wade High School’s 2012 HSC Class who have achieved amazing results. The group of 80 students achieved 41 Band 6 Results across a range of subjects. In addition they achieved 86 Band 5 results across a number of subject areas. In addition 7 students achieved ATARs of above 90 and 13 students achieved ATARs of above 80.

Messages

Principal’s message

2012 has been an outstanding year for Wade High School in all areas. In particular our Year 12 students performed exceptionally well in the HSC, with 13 students achieving ATARs above 90 and the group of 80 students achieving a total of 41 Band 6 results and 86 Band 5 results across a range of subjects. In addition 61% or 49 of the Year 12 group received University offers. There were 90 offers from Universities made to our Year 12 group. As well as excellent academic performance our Year 12 students made significant contributions to the community in times of need such as the unprecedented flooding that occurred at the beginning of the year. Our students raised funds to support those affected by the floods and volunteered to sandbag and clean up.

Our students excelled in sport, the Arts, debating and public speaking, volunteering and community involvement.

Our school has continued its PBL journey and the work of the PBL committee has seen improvements in student learning and achievement. Students have led the teaching of PBL values and attitudes in the school with great success.

Wade High School enjoys significant support from its community and from a strong and committed P&C group. The P&C have provided financial assistance that has seen the installation of several interactive whiteboards, air conditioning and the completion of a large COLA over the basketball courts. I would like to thank the P&C for their strong and ongoing support for the school.

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous school self-evaluation process and is a balanced and genuine account of the school’s achievements and areas for development.

Ken Chalmers
P & C and/or School Council message
This time last year our goal was to build a COLA and refurbish our science labs; With these now completed our children have already enjoyed classes in their new surroundings and our new COLA is a very welcome addition to our school grounds, providing shelter from the weather, and the beginning of our school hall…..which is the next long term goal for our school.

Congratulations to all those involved in these long overdue upgrades to our school.

This year our P&C has raised almost $20,000, and these funds have come directly from our canteen.

We have been able to donate over $35,000 to our school,

- including $460 to our PBL Program,
- $300 to the Accelerated Reader Program
- $305 to Catering for Year 12 Presentation
- $1500 for our A1 Student Reward Lunch
- $4000 for Australian Business Week
- And $28500 to purchase 6 Interactive White Boards

It is important for our community to acknowledge that all the financial support received by the P&C comes directly through our canteen. So a huge thank you as always to Sylvia, her staff, and especially all the wonderful volunteers, who give up their valuable time to work in our canteen.

I ask parents in the school community to consider becoming more involved in their child’s school and education by taking up an active role with our P&C Committee or as a canteen volunteer or even asking a friend or relative who might be interested.

As a school we do not run any major fundraisers so it is important that we remain active in our P&C and canteen if we are to raise money that is spent directly for our children.

We have a student population of about 850 and about 1500 parents. Of these people a total of 13 are members of our P&C with 5 of those being staff. So clearly we need more help!

The coming year will be a busy one for everyone and the more support our children have the greater their chance of success. We have so much more work to do in order to give our children the best possible educational opportunities.

Our Children are the reason we are all here and I congratulate all the students on their great achievements in 2012 and especially our year 12 students who achieved great results in their HSC.

On behalf of the P&C, A huge Thank you to our office staff for always being there to support us, and to our amazing teachers and Principals, that do so much for our children.

As a P&C and Canteen Committee we can feel proud of all the wonderful achievements this year, which benefit all our children. A very big thank you goes to our small group of busy parents and teachers who have attended meetings throughout the year. Your time and valuable contributions in decision making, has all been very much appreciated.

I would like to especially thank our P&C Secretary, Sue Chilvers, who tonight attends her final meeting after 12 years at WHS. Sue is one of our extremely busy working mothers that has worked tirelessly for our school community over the years and will be missed. Sue has been an important part of our team and her time and hard work has been invaluable. Sue we wish you well in the next phase of your life and on behalf of our P&C and Staff at Wade, I would like to say a huge Thank You!

I look forward to the coming year and wish the incoming committee all the best for 2013.

Mrs Julie Andrezza, P&C President

Student representative’s message

2012 was a busy year for the SRC. We participated in many school and community programs and raised money for many worthwhile charities.

In Term 1, we got CRAZY with Crazy Hair Day to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation. It was on this day at Racquelle Perkins (Yr 10) shaved her hair for cancer research. Others who shaved their hair on this day included Mr Bennett and school captain Matt Griffin. Special thanks needs to be given to the staff from Driver Cut and Curl for donating their time and expertise.
But hair shaving was not the only crazy hair styling going on; several students got into the spirit and came to school with CRAZY hair …

At the very beginning of Term 2 we commemorated ANZAC Day with a fundraiser for Legacy. Mr and Mrs Gorton (Miss Gorton’s parents) kindly volunteered not only their time but also their fairy floss machine to help with this fundraiser.

Students turned out dressed in their best school uniform for the ANZAC Day march and represented the school with pride.

The weekend before and the weekend after ANZAC Day a group of dedicated students met at the cemetery and spend the morning placing crosses with a poppy on them on the graves of ex-servicemen and women. This was so that after the ANZAC Day parade march members of the community could go back to the cemetery and place flower on the graves of ex-service personnel.

Term 3 saw the opportunity for students to go out into the community to sell merchandise for Daffodil Day and Legacy Day. The students interacted with the community and assisted these groups in raising vital money for their causes.

In Term 4 students attended the GRIPP Leadership Conference in Albury. Students spend the day learning leadership tools and planning ways to strengthen the Wade High School SRC. The bus trip was a good team bonding experience in the hot weather with no air conditioning and made several trips necessary – including one to play on the playground equipment.

After such an educational and fun filled day the bus ride home was a lot quieter than the trip there.
Armed with leadership skills and a lot of rest the SRC looks forward to the excitement and hard work to be done in 2013.

Peta Larkin & Matt Griffin (School Captains)

Elizabeth Chilvers & Jacob Calabria (Vice Captains)

School context

Student information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all students must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

Student enrolment profile

Management of non-attendance

Student non-attendance is managed through online roll marking, parental contact and referral to the HSLO. Habitual non-attenders may be referred to the Tutorial Centre program.

Post-school destinations

Congratulations to our Year 12 students who have gained Early Entry into university.

In total there were 53 offers - made from UOW, UC, CSU and UNE as well as the Australian International Conservatorium of Music (AICM) - to 40 of our Year 12s, some students received more than one offer. These numbers are well above those for previous years. Those students who have two offers are now in the enviable position where they can choose which early entry offer to accept. It is a great accomplishment that close to 50% of our Year 12 cohort has received offers to university before their ATARs are known and testament to the value of hard work and commitment during the senior years. Universities recognise that ATARs are not always the best indicator of who will be successful in a particular course. Early entry offers are made to students who work consistently in Years 11 and 12, those who show an interest in their chosen field and those likely to succeed at university in their chosen course. The application process is quite a lengthy one for most universities and requires very good preparation. Congratulations to the following successful university applicants:

Hannah Date and Caitlin Ruyg have an early entry offer from AICM.
The National Education Agreement requires schools to report on Indigenous composition of their workforce.
[Enter a statement describing the Indigenous composition of the school workforce. Principals are strongly advised to refer to the Support Document for further information.]

Staff retention

Wade High School’s teaching and Support staff has stabilised over the past two years following a period of change due to retirements.

Teacher qualifications

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.
[Enter text here.]

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Financial summary

This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

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<table>
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<td>Balance carried forward</td>
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Council and/or the parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2012

2012 has been an outstanding year for the staff and students of Wade High school. There have been amazing achievements across a whole range of areas and the staff, community and students are to be congratulated on their efforts.

Achievements

Arts

Aboriginal Dance Group

This year has been an exciting time for Wade High and its Aboriginal Dance Group. Ciara, Natalie, Darby, Brad, Jai, Josh, Jake, Michael, Cory, Nathaniel and Cody have been hard at work creating and learning dances, performing at local primary schools and passing on their teachings to the little kids, performing at Wade High’s MADD Night and the most recent and major event of the year preparing for their major performance of the year at this year’s Schools Spectacular!!!

The Dance Group have been working with Elise Dessmann, a dance teacher here at Wade, and Merv Firebrace who has shared his dances and his knowledge of the Aboriginal culture with all involved with the group. With this amazing collaboration, the students have been able to practice their culture with pride and support of the school and take that into the local community. Students and teachers from local primary schools have commented on the invaluable experience they’ve had with the Dance Group and how the interaction between the older and younger kids have enhance the knowledge of the Aboriginal culture and what it is like to pass that experience and knowledge to the next person.

In addition to sharing and learning, a special mention to Nathaniel and Cody for their success in being chosen to dance with the Bangarra Dance Company, a well-established and acclaimed Aboriginal Dance Company. They have been jet setting back and forth from Sydney performing and enhancing their knowledge of dance, and have even done what Australia found it very hard to do this year in London and bring back the GOLD!!! Nathaniel and Cody won a gold medal for coming first in their group by creating and performing a dance in pairs, so huge congratulations to the two boys!!!

Performing has been something the students have needed to get used to and have worked their way up from dancing in front of the school, to the local community to opening the 2012 MADD Night. These performances have showcased not only the Aboriginal Culture but the pride and passion that the students dance with when they connect to their heritage. This connection is not only felt but the students but by all people in the audiences. Pride and tears of pure happiness has overwhelmed the staff involved and the people who have seen the group perform, in particular Sorry Day and Wade’s NAIDOC Week Flag Raising Ceremony.

Congratulations Dance on your successes so far this year and good luck to you all when you blow away the audience at School’s Spectacular!!!!

Back Row Left to Right: Cory Gibbs, Jai Lyons, Cody Cosson, Brad Lyons, Nathaniel Williams, Michael Kilby

Front Row Left to Right: Dylan McKenzie, Natalie Williams, Josh Marr, Ciara Gibbs, Darby Ingram-Rauluni, Jake Vaughan-Appel

The Aboriginal Education Committee had a great year celebrating Sorry Day and NAIDOC Week, and promoting a stronger school community with developing connections between all ethnicities and cultures. The support and interaction between teachers, students and the community have enabled all students to engage in Aboriginal issues and open them up ways they can individually and as a school community “Close the Gap”.

Sorry Day (pictures above) was an opportunity to define not only what the day meant but how the students could start walking together in the right
direction towards Reconciliation. The students participated in discussions about how they could work together as a school community and how they personally are not to blame for the forced relocation of Aboriginal people but they are sorry for what they had to experience.

NAIDOC Week was celebrated during week 3 of term 3 this year and the students participated in year group activities playing traditional Aboriginal games, performing dances, learning about Aboriginal music, and had special guest Roger Penrith (Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Griffith City Council) to show and discuss the documentary entitled “The First Australians”. Wade also had their annual All Stars touch football game in which the Aboriginal All Stars wanted to claim the shield this year off the Wade High All Stars. However, the game was a little too close for both teams and it ended in a draw.

NAIDOC Week was a pride filled week for the Aboriginal students of Wade high and allowed them to share their culture with their friends, teachers and peers in activities and histories that are important to the Aboriginal people. To highlight all of the events of that week was the NAIDOC flag raising ceremony which included proud Aboriginal students to raise their flag high while the Aboriginal dance group performed their creation dance. It bought a tear to a lot of eyes and filled the Aboriginal people both students and teachers with pride to see the Aboriginal flag flying so high.

Aboriginal Dance Group Performing and Teaching at Local Primary Schools

Music

Two Wade High students, Sam and Alice Hutchinson have been selected to represent the school, the region and Australia in the Youth Music Festival in Hong Kong in April 2013. This is a fully approved DEC excursion. They will meet for their second intensive rehearsal in Sydney on 9 April and fly to Hong Kong on 11th April returning on 18th April, 2013. They will be members of a Wind Ensemble consisting of students from Riverina, Western NSW and New England regions. They spent a week of their vacation in January in intensive rehearsals in Dubbo and are working hard to ensure a successful educational experience in Hong Kong.

Visual Arts

Wade High artist featured in ARTEXPRESS opening

Artworks by two Riverina students are part of an exhibition of 42 of the best artworks by 2012 Higher School Certificate Visual Arts students opened today by the NSW Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli at the Art Gallery of NSW.

The exhibition is part of the 30th ARTEXPRESS, which showcases the best works of art completed by 246 students from government and non-government schools across NSW as part of last year’s HSC.

“Over 400 students’ works were nominated for this year’s ARTEXPRESS exhibition,” Mr Piccoli said.

“Their works will be on display in galleries across the state, including 42 students’ works at the Art Gallery of New South Wales,” he said.

A painting by Wade High student, Molly Burgess will be featured in the exhibition at the principal venue, the Art Gallery of New South Wales, which runs from 20 February to 14 April, before being included in showings at regional galleries in Broken Hill and Wagga Wagga.

Regeneration, the painting by Molly Burgess had relevance to the experiences of many Riverina people as recently as January.

“The devastation of fire in bushland and the regeneration process that follows were central to the creation of my art pieces,” Molly said.

“They reflect change in the landscape following the destruction of fire.”
Mr Piccoli said selectors from the host of venues – which include prestigious galleries in Orange, Tamworth, Broken Hill and The Blue Mountains, as well as two other Sydney galleries – made decisions on works selected in conjunction with the ARTEXPRESS Coordinator.

“The aim was to display both the quality and the diversity of the works completed by these talented students,” Mr Piccoli said.

The range of expressive forms represented includes ceramics, collections of works, documented forms, drawing, graphic design, painting, photomedia, printmaking, sculpture, textiles and fibre and time-based forms.

**Australia Post Visual Arts Award**

Two of Wade High’s Year 12 Visual Arts students have been awarded the “Australia Post Visual Arts” prize. Molly Burgess, whose art work also made the ART Express Exhibition, and … have been recognised for their Art Works through the award of this prize.

**Dance**

**Year 9 Dance Elective**

2012 has been a busy year for all dancers at Wade High and 9B Dance class are no exception. Most of the students in the class hadn’t danced since they were five years old so the level at which the girls are performing now is an outstanding accomplishment.

The students began their study of dance by learning about the anatomy of their own bodies in order to better understand how their bodies move and how to prevent injuries from occurring. The girls demonstrated their knowledge of their anatomical names for muscles and bones by devising a warm up and cool down sequence they taught to the class.

The girls then began their study of the elements of performance. This is where their technique abilities are developed and their confidence to perform with charisma and certainty came to life. Once the girls began to learn a dance to perform at the annual MADD Night performance their energy and passion to become a well-rounded performer greatly increased. They showed great determination and persistence when learning and executing new movement skills to the very best of their ability presenting a moving performance on the night of which both students and their parents/carers can be very proud.

It has been a great pleasure getting to know this small class of delightful girls. They continue to connect with the meaning of dance and its purpose to use the body as a tool of expression. They are beginning to use the world around them as inspiration for their unique style of movement capabilities and in turn inspire me to create the best experiential learning environment I can.

**Industrial Arts HSC Summary 2012**

Once again the Industrial Arts faculty achieved excellent HSC results in 2012. Students in Industrial Technology once again scored above the state average and were the 7th best placed course/class in this regard at Wade. Software Design and Development was just below the state average but the class was small and this has greatly affected the final result.

In SDD the two students performed well and their results were either their second best or third best subject in the HSC. In Industrial Technology 6 of the 9 students it was their best subject in the HSC which is very pleasing. For the remaining students for 2 of the students it was their second best subject and for the final student it was his third best subject. Special mention goes to Racheal Weigand who achieved a Band 6 in IT and 2 other students achieved Band 5. This continues on from previous year’s great results.

Overall, I am pleased with this year’s HSC results and we look forward to the challenge again of achieving excellent results in the senior years again.

The number of junior classes this year in 2013 has increased from last year and we have introduced another Industrial Technology subject Building and Construction which is popular with Year 9 students. Students enjoy the practical experiences and learn invaluable skills in these lessons.

**Sport**

This year we welcomed back Matt Sutton, Maria Martinez, Rob Foskett, Rebecca Hill, Katie Plkington and Eliza Baddock. We also welcomed Fiona McKenzie and Nathan King as our newest members of the PDHPE faculty. We had a fairly unusual start to the year and I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Mrs Martinez & Mr Sutton for relieving in the Head Teacher position for Term 1 and Term 2 respectively whilst I was on leave completing my Gym
Instructor & Personal Training qualifications. Here are just a few of the many highlights that made up 2012.

YEARS 7-10 PDHPE CLASSES IN ACTION

YEAR 7 PDE ON WHAT THEY ENJOYED ABOUT PDHPE...
“I love the Gymnastics, especially the vault & I am looking forward to the Aquatics Games”
“The Managing Change Unit in theory lessons & in practical lessons we love the variety of team games”
“I enjoy the teamwork and cooperation of my classmates”
“I enjoy playing games to keep fit and healthy and I enjoy having fun with the class”
“I like the tag and ball games. They are fun and active”
“Playing Sport together as a group, getting to know each other better through teamwork and being active”
“Trying new things & seeing different abilities. The big tramp was awesome”
“Dancing was fun. Working together”

Years 9 & 10 Dance Elective
Year 9 students have been exploring the Elements of Dance by communicating ideas through literature, visuals and music. All students have worked constructively and have interpreted and delivered the intent given in very effective pieces of choreography.

Students in Year 10 have been exploring CATS the musical as their intent for their Assessment Task this term. Students have displayed an incredible amount of energy and talent in both their Mask design and choreography.

KROP
Wade High School students who participated at KROP 2012 at the Griffith Regional Theatre were given so much praise from the community for their Dance Item “Disconnected Kids”. The intent used was children who are on the ASD Spectrum. It clearly identified the obstacles and frustrations that these children face on a daily basis.

LATIN DANCE - EDUCATION WEEK
The WHS Latin Dance Group has done an amazing job this year at their performances at La Festa, Education Week and at MADD night. This group of students has dedicated their own time to rehearse a set of complex routines so as to excel in their public performances.

Year 10 PASS Elective
Mrs Pilkington & Miss Lees’ Year 10 PASS classes showcased their knowledge and skills from the Event Management Unit when they organised and successfully ran the Annual Yr 12 Student V Teacher Touch Match.

11-12 PDHPE NEWS
Year 11 PDHPE students completed their Senior First Aid Certificate (a qualification that lasts three years).
Year 12 PDHPE students are almost finished their HSC Course and we wish them all the very best for their future endeavours.

We have made some fantastic achievements on the sporting field over the past year and are very proud of the energetic and enthusiastic students here at Wade High School, who always give it their best and continue to represent our school with pride and distinction. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the parents, coaches, community volunteers and PDHPE faculty for their ongoing support of PDHPE & SPORT here at Wade.

2012 has been an extremely busy and successful year on the Sporting field for Wade High students and teachers. We were lucky enough to field teams in over 40 different sporting competitions that ranged from prestigious NSW Combined High School (CHS) Knockouts to various state, regional and local gala days.

Throughout these competitions, our athletes have certainly made us proud and represented the school and the wider Griffith community with high levels of dedication, enthusiasm and outstanding sportsmanship. I have regularly been able to pass on amazing feedback about our students which demonstrates the outstanding way which they conduct themselves whilst representing the school in sport.

Sports which Wade students competed in this year included:
- Australian Rules Football (Boys and Girls)
- Basketball (Opens and U/15 Boys and Girls)
- Cricket
- Hockey (Boys and Girls)
- Netball (Open and U/15)
- Soccer (Open, U/15 Boys and Girls)
- Rugby (U/15 and Opens)
- Tennis (Open Boys and Girls)
- Touch (Open, 9/10, 7/8 Boys and Girls)
- League Tag
- Rugby League (Open and 9/10)
- Lawn Bowls
- Equestrian

Throughout the year many students trialled for their respective Riverina teams and in 2012, we were lucky enough to have 70 students represent Riverina in a variety of different sports. We had 1 student selected in a NSWCHS Team and that was Madeline Lyons of Year 9 who represented NSW in Touch Football. Congratulations Madeline!

Our Year 9/10 Touch Team was named Griffith’s Australia Day Team of the Year for 2012 and Sean Pianca was named Junior Sportsperson and Overall Sportsperson of the Year at the Australia Day awards.

Our 15th Annual Sports Dinner was held in Term 4, with a massive crowd turning out to the Griffith Exies Club in order to celebrate the achievements of Wade High Students in Sport. Students were recognised for their achievements at a school, regional, state and national level.

Major Sports Award Winners for 2012 were:
- Sub-Junior Sportswoman of the Year – Megan WOOLNOUGH
- Sub Junior Sportsman of the Year – Dean SCHMETZER
- Junior Sportswoman of the Year – Madeline LYONS
- Junior Sportsman of the Year –
- Senior Sportswoman of the Year – Peta LARKIN
- Senior Sportsman of the Year – Mark SEMMLER
- Pierre de Coubertin Award – Shannan RUSSELL
- Tom Bashford Memorial Award – Emma GROAT, Meg SIGNOR and Jessica SOLIGO
- NSW Premier’s Sporting Challenge Medal – Ben LYONS
- David Jones All Rounders – Zoe WHITWORTH and Joel GORDON
- Team of the Year – Year 9/10 Girls Touch Football Team
Our swimmers excelled themselves this year. It began in Week 2 of term 1 where a new format was trialled for the Swimming Carnival. Swimming Trials were held and this allowed students to nominate themselves provided them with the opportunity to compete against other strong swimmers. We sent a strong team away to the Zone and Riverina carnivals and were lucky enough to have 13 students travel away to Sydney for CHS Carnival. Our U/14 Girls Relay team performed exceptionally well and Brooke Tilston also finished in the Top 10 in NSW the 14 Years Girls 400m Individual Medley. Congratulations!

**ATHLETICS: CHAMPION SCHOOL @ ZONE!**

Once again Wade High students showed their skill in Track and Field. Our school carnival was held on the last day of Term 1 and the competition proved to be as hot as the weather on the day! Thanks must go to Year 12 for supplying food for our athletes and for each and every student dressing up in house colours and promoting a bit of house spirit – it was really great to see! Toby Blissett broke the 17 Years Boys High Jump record with a jump of 1.70m. Jesse Forrester of Year 10 won the Blue Ribbon event over 100m in a time of 11.44 seconds and Zoe Whitworth of Year 9 won the girls Blue Ribbon 100m event in a time of 12.0.

Wade High was again the champion school at the Zone Athletics Carnival and Dean Schmetzer, Megan Woolnough and Emma Fattore were named Zone Age Champions. We had 8 Relay teams and a staggering 56 students qualify for the Riverina Carnival in Albury. At Riverina our students again performed exceptionally well and 27 students qualified for the NSWCHS Carnival. Well done!!

**SWIMMING: Brooke Tilston – Top 10 in 400m IM!**

**TENNIS: Open Girls - 3rd in NSW!**

Our Tennis teams again proved they are some of the best in NSW with the Open Girls team again qualifying for the State Finals which were held in Gosford. The team consisting of Maddi Gregor, Grace Burge, Hannah Date, Megan Polkinghorne, Meg Signor and Ali Cox played out of their skin and were narrowly defeated by Westfield Sports High School to grab the bronze medal and placing them 3rd in the State. Congratulations Girls!!

**TOUCH FOOTBALL: 9/10 Girls 3rd in NSW; Open Girls – 10th in NSW**

Wade High Touch teams again proved they were a force to be reckoned with across a range of divisions and competitions. Our Open Girls Team qualified for the NSWCHS Finals for the first time and despite fielding the youngest team at the carnival they were
able to finish 10th in NSW. Over 400 teams entered this knockout so this is a marvellous achievement.

The Boys Opens team qualified for the Riverina Finals and performed exceptionally well despite having a relatively young and inexperienced team.

Our girls Year 9/10 performed outstandingly again by winning the regional carnival and qualifying for the NSW All Schools State Finals where they got to compete against the very best of Public, Catholic and Independent Schools. Despite being defeated in a very close Semi Final against eventual state champions Hills Sports High School, the girls’ team was placed 3rd best team of all NSW Schools. We also had 12 students represent the Riverina in Touch Football alone which is an amazing achievement!

Congratulations must also go to Ben Lyons who was appointed the referee of the NSWCHS Open Boys State Final in 2012.

Some of the highlights of 2012 from the Under 15 Girls Soccer team included

• Defeating Marion College at their home ground 2 nil.
• 2 of our Year 7 super stars (Hannah Farronato and Emma Butcher) scoring 5 goals each in 1 game.
• Defeating Albury High and becoming Riverina champs!
• Defeating Bendigo South East College in extra time to make it into the final 8 of the competition.

I would like to congratulate the Under 15 Girls on their achievements this year and the way in which they conducted themselves throughout the competition. Well done girls!

We also had the following student selected in the Opens Riverina Football teams – Jacob Brooker, Isaac Brooker, Morgan Forster, Alex Scobie and Natasja Vasta. Well done!

NETBALL: Open Riverina Champions!

For the first time Wade High was able to enter teams in the Open Girls and U/15 CHS Netball competitions where we had some excellent results. In the Riverina Carnival – both the Open Girls and Under 15 team qualified for the final against Albury High School. Both teams played some excellent netball and the Open Girls team was victorious against Albury who boasted 5 Riverina Netball representatives! They then went onto the next stage of the CHS Knockout competition where they played exceptionally well to only be narrowly defeated by 5 goals against an extremely well drilled side from Wagga High School. Each and every girl represented the school with pride. Congratulations!
It was another busy year for our Rugby League coach Mr. Foskett who took away a number of teams to various competitions.

Early on in the Year our Opens League and Years 9/10 Team competed in the Tri-Schools Competition against Marion and Griffith High School down at the Dog Track with some excellent results. Our Open Boys Team defeated Marion and was extremely competitive against Griffith HS who boast a number of representative players.

Our Year 9 and 10 team was successful in winning against both Marian and Griffith HS and advancing on to compete in the finals of the Riverina Cup in Wagga. Our boys were by far the best team at this finals series and ended up winning the Riverina Cup by defeating Mt. Austin High School in the final! The behaviour of the team was also acknowledged by the organisers of this competition and once again shows the wonderful reputation which our athletes have!

For the first year, Open Girls League Tag was introduced to the Tri-Schools competition and our team, comprising of experienced League Tag and Touch Football Girls played exceptionally well to defeat Marion and Griffith HS convincingly to win the Tri-Schools League Tag competition! Congratulations girls!

Open Hockey

On Wednesday 30th May, the open boys and girls hockey teams had a road trip to play in the Albury knockout hockey competition. All players were great ambassadors for Wade High School and although our teams were unsuccessful in qualifying for the next level, both teams played extremely well and had a fantastic time. The day goal scorers for the day were Natasja Vasta for the girls and Daniel Dixon and Toby Blissett for the boys. It was a very long, but very enjoyable day and a pleasure taking the teams away for the day.

U/15 GIRLS BASKETBALL

On Wednesday 15th August, the Under 15 girls’ basketball travelled to Narrandera to play in a round robin knockout tournament. In their first game the girls played Leeton and dominated the court, winning 29-19, advancing them through to the final game against Narrandera. The girls played extremely well and hard in this final match up, but were unfortunately no match for the Narrandera team. At the end of the day Wade High finish 2nd overall on the day which was a fantastic achievement. They were great ambassadors for the school and played their absolute best in all games, well done girls. All the girls played exceptionally well with a few stand out performers including, Hayley Perez our leading scorer, Bayleigh Hogan & Renae Larkin fantastic defence and ball movement along with Olivie Mulholland and Jennifer Pilon with great support plays by Tennille Scott, Brittany Colston and Abbey Shilson-Josling. We would like to thank Toki Lolotonga for being our appointed referee for the day and also to Ben Pilon for being bench person and assistant coach.

The school wishes to thank each and every staff member for their support and coaching efforts; the parents who have chauffeured and chaperoned our athletes around the state; a lot of the time with late changes of plan and short notice. Thank you also to SASS staff for their assistance during the year and to Sam Arcifa, for his tireless effort and assistance.

Finally thank you to all the students who have represented the school we are proud of your efforts and achievements.
Other

English

National Curriculum Implementation
In preparation for the impending National Curriculum changes, the English faculty has been working to create new scope and sequences for Stages 4 and 5 as well as adapt current curriculum programs to meet the new syllabus requirements. It is an exciting time for the English faculty who look forward to implementing the curriculum to Years 7 and 9 from 2014.

Learning Centre
English teachers have been heavily involved in running programs through the Learning Centre. English programs run this year have included Study Skills for Senior Success, creative writing and the Peer Mediation Program.

Debating
Debating in 2012 saw great success for Wade High School. The Year Eleven/Twelve team reached the Riverina Finals, of the Premier’s Debating Challenge, as did the Year Nine/Ten team. The debating teams have also furthered links with local primary schools, with the students continuing to act as adjudicators in primary school debates. The Year Seven/Eight team was also built on their experience by being actively involved in the Premier’s Debating Challenge and collaborating with senior teams.

Public Speaking
2012 was a very successful year for public speakers from Wade High School, and it must be noted that our most outstanding result for some time was the success of Elise Delpiano of Year 12 who won the state final of the Lions Youth of the Year.

Elise has developed into a competent and articulate speaker who is able to present prepared and impromptu speeches on a variety of topics. Although Elise didn’t win at the National Final of the Youth of the Year in Perth, in her own words it was “a remarkable journey and the experience of a lifetime.”

Sydney Morning Herald Plain English Award
In May, Olivia Fidow and Elise Delpiano represented WHS at the Plain English Award held at Marian Catholic College and presented an impromptu and prepared speech. Although unsuccessful, both girls spoke fluently and passionately on their prepared speeches.

Junior Legacy Public Speaking Competition
In August, Emma Simpson and Gabbi Smith of Year 8 represented WHS at the Legacy competition held at St. Francis Regional College where they competed against some very strong candidates. Both students had to present a 5 minute prepared speech as well as a 2 minute impromptu speech, and although unsuccessful on the day they gained experience and knowledge.

Rostrum Voice of Youth
Gabbi Smith and Emma Simpson of Year 8 gave outstanding speeches at the local final in Griffith. Gabbi was the winner on the night and then went on to compete in the zone final at Yass where she experienced strong, flawless competition.

Accelerated Reader Program
Students in Year 7 have continued to benefit from the accelerated reader program. Consistent reading and follow up activities are ensuring students are working towards building literacy and vocabulary skills in Stage 4 and beyond.

Science
The focus for the Wade High Science faculty in the past year has been on increasing student engagement and improving our formative assessment procedures. “Assessment for Learning” tasks were adjusted and improved on to ensure students received valuable
feedback and teachers were able to use the information to adjust class tasks.

The refurbishment of four of the Science Laboratories provided an opportunity for the use of ICT to be improved in the faculty with the included SMART boards. Our Science teachers have increased the use of ICT as a teaching tool as they have embraced this technology.

Providing Year 10 students with the opportunity to choose the level of Science they wish to study as part of the Raising Responsibility program has proven very successful. Students were able to select from two strands of the subject for each topic taught, allowing them to have some control of their learning. The single subject day at the end of 2012 allowed interested students to participate in an excursion to the water treatment plant where they could engage in tasks to prepare for Senior Studies.

Primary Industries and Junior Agriculture class continue to be very popular and significant improvements were made to the Agriculture plot in the past year. The construction of a covered area is an example of this.

Special Education

Wade High has been at the forefront of Special Education in the Griffith area schools. The school’s strong commitment to students with special needs has seen the establishment of a Special Education faculty at Wade High at the end of 2012.

The implementation of the Every Student Every School initiative has seen the faculty expand in numbers. There are now seven teaching staff plus six School Learning Support Officers (SLSOs). This expansion has meant that more students and their various support needs are being addressed. Wade High aims to develop best practice strategies for meeting the needs of our students and developing the most appropriate differentiated learning programs to our diverse learners.

Prior to the establishment of the faculty, the school had two support classes. The Tutorial Centre and the Multicategorical class worked with a range of students who have support needs. The addition of a third support class has allowed the creation of a Special Education faculty to further improve support and services to our students.

Two new classrooms have been added to the school to provide suitable areas to house the faculty. Students and staff have been busy planning and developing gardens around the classrooms to learn gardening and horticultural skills.

2013 promises to be a challenging and energizing year across the Special Education faculty and the staff are looking forward to all of this.

LOTE HIGHLIGHTS

HSC Results

Our Year 12 students achieved 14 Band 6s over 3 subjects (7 in German Beginners, 5 in French Beginners and 2 in German Continuers). As well as this Ramandeep Kaur and Jacob Calabria placed 3\textsuperscript{rd} and 4\textsuperscript{th} respectively in the State in German Beginners, and Anna Frank placed 5\textsuperscript{th} in the State in French Beginners.

German Beginners results were 10.56 above the State Mean and French Beginners results were 8.49 above the State Mean.

Miss Wolfenden won scholarship to Italy and Meg Yates of Year 10 went on exchange to Germany.

There was an overall increase in students receiving Bronze Awards in the Faculty by approximately 5% and an increase in the number of students receiving Grades A and B in Years 7 and 8 by just over 5%.

There was also an increase in the number of students receiving Grade A in Year 10 by over 10\% - most number of Grade As ever given.

Our emphasis on literacy and numeracy activities has resulted in improved outcomes for the majority of students in the LOTE Faculty.

Gifted and Talented

Wade High School offers a wide range of Gifted and Talented Programs for all Year Groups. In 2012, Year 7 and 8 are exposed to a range of subjects on a term by term basis. They are identified by teacher nomination or through the Wade High reporting system. The focus of the programs is based around the expectations of ‘working together’ and ‘actively participating’. Years 9, 10 and 11 are offered acceleration within a subject they are identified as being Gifted and Talented, through teacher nomination or through the Wade High reporting system. This means students can study a subject above their year group.
In Year 11, we had three students accelerated into Year 12 HSC subjects. Stephen Amery completed 2 Unit Metal and Engineering and received a Band 5 (86). Shyam Bhagavata completed 2 Unit Mathematics and received a Band 5 (82). Alix Gatty completed 2 Unit Industrial Technology and received a Band 4 (75).

In Year 10, one student completed Preliminary Legal Studies and is continuing on with this HSC courses in 2013.

**Positive Behaviour for Learning – Respectful, Responsible, Learners**
Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) is three years into its five year implementation with great progress made in 2012. Teaching the expectations of each area of the playground to all students and staff were a focus throughout 2012. The annual ‘refreshing’ of our whole school expectations and values were also completed. Professional signage was placed in all classrooms and areas in the playground to remind students and staff of the expectations and values.

Rewarding students who have displayed the Wade High expectations continued with students receiving reward tickets they can place into a box each week to go in the chance to win a $10.00 voucher at the school canteen (sponsored by the P & C).

Members of the PBL Team completed classroom implementation training which is to be implemented in 2013.

**HSIE (Initiatives, Successes, Progress on achieving Faculty Targets)**
The Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE) faculty focused on catering for the needs all students, in particular with assessments. This was to ensure the learning outcomes for students were met. Assessment for Learning and adjusting tasks remained a focus and was positively received by staff, students and parents. Programs and units of work were altered as a faculty.

Quality Teaching and the use of technology in the classroom was highlighted throughout the year with the use of MOODLE and the DER Laptops, in particular with Year 9 History, Geography and Commerce students.

**HSC HSIE**
Ancient History, Economics, Business Studies, Geography and Legal Studies were studied by the 2012 Year 12 cohort. Solid results were achieved across all four subjects. Ancient History students achieved particularly well with one student gaining 10th in the state, with a total of three students achieving a Band 6. One student in Economics gained a Band 6.

**Acceleration**
One student from Year 10 participated in acceleration in a HSIE subject. This student actively participated in Preliminary Legal Studies.

**Additional programs**
Year 8 Geography students participated in a combined Quality Teaching and ‘Thinking Skills’ assessment challenge – ‘The Madagascar Expo’. Students learnt about Rainforests and Grasslands based around the movie ‘Madagascar’. Students were required to put ‘on show’ activities they had completed throughout the term and they were also asked a range of questions from their teachers. The aim of this assessment was to give students responsibility for their own learning and engage students in their learning.

**TAS Home Economics**
After the 2012 floods, Year 11 Hospitality students came up with a “Catering for a Cause” Initiative. Students prepared various slices and dropped them off to community groups, including The Flood Disaster Relief Centre, The Police, and The SES. As well as flood affected primary schools in our community including, Yenda Public School, Yoogali Public School and Hanwood Public School.

**Careers 2012:**

**University of Wollongong Discovery Day:**
On the 10th February 2012, 47 of our Year 12 students attended the Discovery Day at the University of Wollongong. The students had the opportunity to see what a university campus looks like and spend the day as a university student attending lectures of their choice. All students found the day to be most worthwhile, returning well informed of the various courses available to them and eager to attend university after their HSC.

**15 June: TAFE Open Day Year 10**
Year 10 students were given the opportunity of seeing inside the various departments at Griffith TAFE, finding out about what courses are available and having all their questions answered by course coordinators. The afternoon included tours of each
teaching section within the campus. This visit was particularly beneficial for those students interested in finding out about courses, students considering taking a TVET course in Year 11 and students who were considering completing full-time study at TAFE instead of returning to school the following year.

18 June: Tertiary Information Day & Careers Expo for Years 10-12
The Expo took place at the Leeton Soldiers’ Club. There were approximately 50 providers who attended and students in Years 10, 11 and 12 were given the opportunity to ask questions and obtain information about courses and careers, scholarships, employment opportunities, apprenticeships/traineeships and post-school options. The event was also beneficial for Year 10 students who needed to choose subjects for Year 11. Attendance at events such as the Careers Expo helps students focus on their transition from school to work or further education.

26 June: Taste of TAFE Day for Year 10
Griffith TAFE teachers provided a full day of practical activities enabling students to sample specific course areas of their choice, such as Hair & Beauty, Automotive, Child Care, Metals& Engineering, Construction, Business Services etc.

Australian Business Week – Week 7 Term 4.
Enterprise education aims to help students to be innovative, to recognise opportunities, demonstrate initiative, make decisions, solve problems and take responsibility. We saw students doing all these things during the week. All Year 10 students were divided into company teams and they displayed a very healthy competitive spirit.

The theme was fashion and the students certainly let their imaginations and design ideas run wild. All companies thought long and hard over decisions to be made in each quarter and all ended up increasing production and their share price and making a profit. They had lots of fun dressing up for the video commercials, filming scenes, painting and decorating trade displays and participating in tug-o’-war, team games and challenges.

CSU Creative Careers Day – August
Year 10 girls attended the day at Charles Sturt University participating in various activities and learning a great deal about the courses and careers available in the Creative industries field. They were also given a bus tour of the campus and looked at accommodation possibilities. The day brought them one step closer to deciding on a possible career path.

OH&S White Card Course
Year 10 and some Year 9 students completed their White Card Course at Griffith TAFE in preparation for work experience.

Year 10 Work Experience
All Year 10 students were given the opportunity to complete two weeks of Work Experience – one week in Term 2 and one in Term 4. These weeks provided a valuable workplace experience and assisted students in the making of career decisions. Work Experience also helps students make a smooth transition to the world of work.

School Based Traineeships
Term 4 saw the sign-up of nine Year 10 students as School Based Trainees. These students are employed in a variety of areas including Automotive, Real Estate, Retail, Financial Services, IT, Children’s Services and Transport & Logistics. We are very fortunate that we have local employers willing to give our students such beneficial opportunities. These students will all complete Year 12 with an HSC, a nationally recognised TAFE qualification and the completion of their first year of an apprenticeship. They will certainly be a huge step ahead of others wishing to embark on these types of careers.

Public Speaking: Sean wins the night
Time and time again the students of Wade High School are given many opportunities to display their talents outside of the school setting. During week 7 I had the good fortune to attend the Lions Youth of the Year Public Speaking Dinner held at the Griffith Southside Leagues Club. At the dinner I was able to witness the amazing talents of 6 students from Marion Catholic College, Griffith High School and Wade High School. Rachael Guest (Year 10) and Sean Delpiano (Year 11) represented Wade High School. The students were given an individual interview a few days earlier with a selected panel of judges from the Lions Club. However, on the night they were confronted by an even more daunting task. Each of the contestants was presented with an impromptu speaking task and they were given a two minute limit. The two topics were: 1) What are your thoughts and opinions on the MDBA plan? 2) If you could have dinner with anyone dead or alive, who would it be and why?
Both Rachael and Sean spoke very well and they confidently gave extremely insightful answers on the spot. Rachael, as usual, displayed her very friendly demeanour and she won the audience over with her big smile. She wanted to have dinner with Gandhi as during his life he always showed great wisdom. Sean spoke in a professional manner and with great confidence. His dinner guest was Winston Churchill. Sean has an interest in History and he wanted to know what Churchill was thinking during the time of the war and how he came to make the decisions that he did. I was very proud of both of these students. They represented Wade High School in an exemplary manner and they performed with distinction. Sean Delpiano won the Public Speaking Competition. He was also declared the overall winner on the night. This included public speaking, his achievements and the interview. Wade High School congratulates Rachel and Sean on their participation in this event. We must also congratulate Sean on such a great achievement. It was such a great honour for me to be present on the night!

Elise Delpiano: Lions Youth of the Year Quest

Our congratulations go to Elise Delpiano for her success in NSW Lions Youth of the Year Quest. Elise won the Public Speaking section of the competition and was a very close runner-up in the Overall Section. Elise now goes on to the National Finals and the National Lions Convention in Perth at the start of May as the NSW representative. In Perth Elise will be involved in further competition as well as civic receptions during her week-long stay in Perth.

The Quest determines who would be a suitable Youth Ambassador. It not only takes into account one’s public speaking skills, but also their leadership qualities and community involvement. It consists of a written application, detailing one’s academic, cultural, sporting and community achievements, a 45 minute interview before a judging panel, 2x two minute impromptu questions on anything (current affairs, political opinions, general knowledge) and finally a five minute prepared speech. Elise’s prepared speech was on ‘Aussie Manners are an Utter Disgrace’.

Elise was the sole Public Comprehensive High School competitor at the NSW competition and will be the sole flag bearer for Public Education at the National finals. Her achievement in beating the private school representatives says a great deal about her commitment, talent and the support she has received at Wade High School. One of Elise’s prizes is a tour of Australia, visiting landmarks, capital cities and the home towns of all of the competitors on the completion of her HSC. This is in the midst of a very busy itinerary including the HSC, and Wade High School’s Graduation, followed by Elise’s second exchange trip, this time for a year through Rotary Youth Exchange, to a destination to be decided.

Elise Delpiano and Bob Moore, Past N4 District Governor.

Academic

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10.

Yr 7: from Band 4 (lowest) to Band 9 (highest for Year 7)
Yr 9: from Band 5 (lowest) to Band 10 (highest for Year 9)

The My School website provides detailed information and data for national literacy and numeracy testing (NAPLAN).

Click on the link http://www.myschool.edu.au and enter the school name in the Find a school and select GO.

Higher School Certificate

In the Higher School Certificate the performance of students is reported in performance bands ranging from Performance Band 1 (lowest) to Performance Band 6 (highest).

Congratulations to the Wade High School’s 2012 HSC Class who have achieved amazing results. The group of 80 students achieved 41 Band 6 Results across a range of subjects. In addition they achieved 86 Band 5 results across a number of subject areas. In addition 7 students achieved ATARs of above 90 and 13 students achieved ATARs of above 80.

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The school extends its congratulations to the students many of whom have already been to the school to thank teachers and congratulate each other.

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<th>Student</th>
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<td>Elijah McKellar-Qasi</td>
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<td>Com &amp; Fam Stud</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Betul Mercandagi**  
Visual Arts

**Lisa Pfitzner**  
Industrial Tech

**Domenic Rogato**  
Com & Fam Stud

**Caitlin Ruvg**  
Industrial Tech

**Mark Semmler**  
General Maths  
PDHPE  
German Beg

**Meg Signor**  
Visual Arts

**Fabienne Storr**  
German Beg

**Lauren Vendrasco**  
German Beg

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Band Six Results Total: 41</th>
<th>Band 5 Results: 86</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students: 23</td>
<td>Students: 40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Significant programs and initiatives**

**Year 7 ‘Accelerated Reader’ in the Library**

As part the literacy focus in the school, we run **Accelerated Reader** once a week with year 7 students. Sometimes students from other years also continue with the scheme if their teacher elects to do so.

**What is it?**

A reading program **primarily designed to encourage your child to read**. Whatever their current reading ability, all children can benefit from being encouraged to read regularly:

- Develop confidence in their reading ability and their ability to read for sustained periods of time
- Build their vocabulary
- Improve and extend their current reading level
- Expose them to a wider variety of reading material

**How it works**

Students are given a quiz to determine their reading range. They then **choose a book within their range, read it and complete a comprehension quiz**. They are given immediate feedback in the form of a TOPS Report. Student will be in a small group where support and assistance will be provided by the teaching staff.

**How you can help**

Students will be asked to borrow books and complete some reading at home. As a parent, encourage your child to set aside a small amount of time each day for reading.

Be a good role model and read yourself. Discuss books and stories with them.

**Become involved**

If you have spare time during the week, you may like to volunteer an hour with a reading class.

**Assignment Centre – Wednesday Lunchtime**

While students are able to use the Library any lunchtime for schoolwork, I have decided to dedicate Wednesdays lunchtime as a work only time. This means students will not be able to access the Library for sitting/chatting/playing games on Wednesdays.

**“Thinking Thursday”-A Middle Schooling Initiative**

The Middle Years

Studies have shown that between the ages of 10 and 14 years students are at a crossroads. It is during this time that the quality of education and student involvement has a direct influence on success at school.

Over the last couple of years a strong relationship has been built with the primary schools and a successful Middle Schooling Program involving Year 6 has been established. This will be expanded in 2012.

**“Thinking Thursday”** has been developed to further challenge and stimulate growth in this important development stage. The day will run every second Thursday beginning in Week 2, and will incorporate various aspects of the curriculum, including social skills and cross-KLA areas of study.

**Staff Involved**

Middle Schooling is an important initiative for Wade High School and as a result “**Thinking Thursday**” will be staffed by very enthusiastic and experienced staff from all KLA’s, including a Deputy Principal and two Head Teachers.

**Activities**

The structure of the day will be flexible. Group sizes and lesson lengths will vary depending on the type of activity that is being completed. There will be five full days of activities/lessons for each term.

Activities for Term 1 2012 will include Peer Support, social skill development, Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL), and Literacy and Numeracy Activities. Each Thinking Thursday will begin with an assembly in the school hall. Parents and caregivers are invited to attend these assemblies as we will showcase the talents of Year 7 as well as distribute awards.

**Academic Focus**

The teachers involved in the “Thinking Thursday” program will work collaboratively to develop and administer units of study that incorporate the requirements of the prescribed syllabi for each KLA.
Overall the day will be a combination of social skill development and academic rigour. The staff at Wade High School is very enthusiastic and excited about implementing this new initiative.

**Thinking Thursday**

**Moving to the beat**
The music department again has had an awesome year with students in Year 7s ploughing through program music, orchestral construction and the genre of early Rock.

Many students took to keyboards, guitar and drums which incorporated the forming of their own music groups. This gave many students the opportunity to discover the many difficulties of team work and reconciling of issues which saw these groups in real life situations. This is a wonderful learning experience which incorporates our PBL program.

Years 8, 9 & 10 have been focusing on developing their performing skills while working through the many aspects of stage 5 music.

**Work Studies**

What a great start to the year we have had in Work Studies! The increase in student numbers participating in the subject has been encouraging to see. This year we have 37 Year 11 students enrolled and 13 Year 12 students.

Work Studies is a fantastic subject that is suitable for almost all students. The flexibility of the subject is what attracts many students. The subject is made up of 4 key areas:

- Theory
- Work placement
- Voluntary work
- Courses/training

The subject caters for the individual needs of students. It helps prepare students who want to join the work force straight after school and those who have a clear idea about the industry in which they want to pursue. However, it also caters for students who are unsure of what they want to do with their lives.

Being a senior can be a very confusing and daunting experience for students. We try and target these students to help them through the journey and to help them discover their own personal goals. Work Studies enables students to participate in work placements in several different industries so students can guage what they like and dislike. The subject provides opportunities for students to participate in voluntary work throughout the community which increases their community awareness.

Students have been asked to participate in a range of voluntary programs throughout the community. In week 8 some students volunteered and participated in the Waste Not, Want Not Program for Food Bank. Twenty eight students participated in the program and donned gloves so they could sort through excess produce that supermarkets didn’t want.
sorted through hundreds of onions that were stacked in crates from floor to ceiling. It was a huge job and a tremendous effort by all those involved. The onions were then sent to Sydney where they could be distributed between 500 charities throughout N.S.W and the A.C.T.

School Evaluation

NSW public schools conduct evaluation to support the effective implementation of the school plan. In 2012 our school carried out evaluation of [Enter text here].

Thinking Thursday- Middle School Evaluation

Thinking Thursday has been implemented as part of the WHS Middle School Initiatives.

Primarily it is hoped it will

- create a flexible structure which enables innovative practices to be implemented to Y7 as a whole year group
- incorporate existing school programs in a more efficient and productive manner (i.e. PBL, Orientation , Super 6 etc) enabling improved transition into high school.
- provide an engaging school environment for Yr 7 which involves Cross Curricula implementation In the first 2 terms the program has developed along the concepts stated above.

Creating a flexible structure enabling innovative teaching practice

- Each Thinking Thursday has had a different structure. Some days have involved 4, 5, 6 or 7 Groups. Groups have been organised on a daily basis and have involved mixing of class groups allowing students from classes to more readily mix with others in their years in structured learning environments.
- In Term 3 the Music Department has incorporated a whole year assessment task which will culminate in a ‘whole year group’ performance. Something I would assume never achieved before at WHS.
- Autism ‘sixth sense’ program delivered by DGO in a structured environment which promoted consistency and opportunity.
- Promoted the opportunity for team teaching and collaborative decision making. Many lessons have been taught by a ‘team of teachers’.
- Created an opportunity for ‘Peer Modelling’ in the Performing Arts (through the daily assemblies). Older students have performed resulting in Yr 7 students being engaged at an earlier age (i.e. in high school) in performing in front of large groups. Additionally has promoted greater confidence in other ‘non – Yr 7’ students to perform in front of groups (many have performed for the first time in front of a group at TT assembly)
- Whole school year acknowledgement occurs fortnightly during TT assemblies
- Year Advisor has an authentic connection with the whole year each fortnight.
- Duplication of set lessons from ‘experts’ allows greater consistency and delivery across whole year groups.
- Allows Team Building and collaborative learning as a whole year group (through Sport and Rec type activities as well as during year assemblies).
- Provided a structure capable of adapting to staffing changes
- Utilised larger teaching spaces (Drama Space, Hall, Library) to incorporate ‘big group’ learning experiences

Incorporating Existing School Programs in a more Efficient and Productive Manner

- Peer support organised specifically for this day with no impact on the rest of the school in terms of ILO or lost periods
- A1 excursion organised for this day enabling effective classes to continue during the excursion and for the remaining part of the day.
- PBL taught to the whole year group by fewer teachers giving it greater emphasis and greater consistency. Completed within two terms.
- Although not part of TT organisation the Athletics Carnival was held on a TT day ( 5 periods not lost to curriculum)
- Report Ceremony held on TT
- The tradition of Yr 7 going to Mad Night Matinee is happening on TT (again periods not lost to the Curriculum)
- Super 6 Literacy Skills (whole school focus) taught to whole cohort group in a systematic way giving it more credibility.
- Students, who are traditional in core class groups, have the opportunity to mix with students in the whole year group; they are exposed to other staff assisting in better transition and the development of a whole year group culture.
Providing an engaging school environment involving Cross Curricula Content

- COGS Unit developed and being implemented, culminating in an “expo” towards the end of Term 4
- Wiradjuri language/culture given a whole school focus and delivered in a format which gives it greater significance (not simply an add on program)
- A program where teachers from a variety of KLA’s come together to teach as a team in delivering Educational Programs on a consistent basis throughout the year.
- Thinking Skills and collaborative learning skills addressed through cross curricula exercises.
- Motivational Speaker (Guest Speakers specifically organised for this day) and whole school activities (i.e. Bully Performance) are given greater significance through reflective exercises incorporated in TT.
- Allowed for teachers to focus on areas of interest and expertise which maybe outside their KLA discipline.

NOTE: Thinking Thursday is an Educational Program which is just over two terms old (11 days – 55 periods). It is evolving; it is a new initiative and as a result should logically encounter problems. However the most significant aspect so far has been how well students and teachers have adapted to its implementation. Few hurdles have been experienced. Student Management issues are almost non-existent (see SENTRAL) and students with special needs seem to be adapting. Overall students verbally report very positively on TT (there are some students who do not like it). However a more specific student evaluation will need to be completed soon.

Attendance is no better than other school days and may be down slightly. The need to coordinate meetings is an issue particularly if each TT day was not as effectively organised as they are now. The impact on the whole school has seen pressure on rooming and staff timetables (concentrated periods).

Overall, on the evidence collected so far (although more quantitative data is needed), it seems that this concept is more than meeting expectations and realistically has quickly become an integral part of Middle Schooling. The extent of its success will only be limited by our ability to explore its potential.

Professional learning
The school has provided for a significant Professional Learning Program for all staff. Teachers have developed their own Professional Learning Plans based on their career aspirations and the school plan.

The school also has a Head Teacher Mentor who assists new and beginning teachers with their teaching, professional learning and accreditation. The Mentor also assists staff who are maintaining their accreditation.

School planning 2012—2014
The school planning policy provides direction for the preparation and implementation of school plans including the identification of priority areas, intended outcomes and targets that are consistent with the NSW State Plan and the Department’s planning documents.

School priority 1
Outcome for 2012–2014

- Developing Respectful Responsible Learners

Engaging students actively as responsible learners
- Planning, developing and implementing the National Curriculum – BOS NSW Syllabuses
- Assessing student learning
- Training/Up skilling teachers for quality delivery
- Attendance and Retention
- Technology in teaching and learning

Professional Learning Allocation 2012 - $22 000

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:

1.1 Increase in school attendance
1.2 Decrease in Fractional Truancy
1.3 Increase in students receiving WHS awards, Bronze by (over 3 years) 5% -10%, Silver by 5%-10%, Gold 5%-10%
1.4 Increase in School Grade A’s in Yr 7/8 by 5% each year
1.5 Decrease in School Grade D and E’s in Yr 9/10 by 10% each year
1.6 Increase in Assessment as Learning tasks
1.7 Assessment as learning incorporated into Assessment as Learning Schedules

Strategies to achieve these targets include:

1.1 There is a greater capacity for independent learning and critical thinking across all subject areas.
1.2 Teachers are well prepared and skilled for promoting and engaging students in 21st Century learning processes across the school using a range of strategies, learning techniques and tools for enhancing learning for all students.

1.3 Students have a greater engagement in their studies and see the importance of being at school and completing all assigned tasks to a high standard.

1.4 Staff prepared for the implementation of the Australian National Curriculum.

1.5 To ensure an efficient transition for students accelerated through Years 7 to 12 at Wade High School.

1.6 To more effectively engage students in Years 9 and 10 into the world of work and community.

School priority 2
Outcome for 2012–2014
Developing Respectful Responsible Learners
Building the foundations of Literacy and numeracy for lifelong learning
- basic skill development
- Complex skill development
- Using data
- Integrating skill development

Professional Learning Allocation 2012 - $22 000

2013 Targets to achieve this outcome include:
2.1 Increase in the number of students achieving Grade A and B’s in Year 7/8/9/10 in all KLA’s by over 3 years.
2.2 Decrease in the number of students achieving Grade D and E’s in Yr 7/8/9/10 in all KLA’s by over 3 years.
2.3 Increase in growth levels for writing in Year 9 (Yr 7 Cohort) NAPLAN by over 3 years.
2.4 Increase in growth levels in numeracy in Year 9 (Yr 7 Cohort) NAPLAN by over 3 years.

Strategies to achieve these targets include:
2.1 Teachers use data to inform their teaching and learning.
2.2 Literacy and numeracy skills are planned and explicitly and systematically integrated in all subject areas.

[Add more priorities as required.]

About this report
In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analysed other information about the school’s practices and student learning outcomes. The self-evaluation committee and school planning committee have determined targets for the school's future development.

Ken Chalmers, Principal
Don Dixon, Deputy Principal
Rebecca Gorton SRC Co-ordinator
Julie Andreatza, P&C President
Peta Larkin & Matt Griffin 2012 School Captains

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Parents can find out more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the reports and have the opportunity to provide feedback about these reports at:

Sean Pianca won three individual gold medals, 1 team gold and one individual silver medal at the National Archery Championships after only 12 months in archery. He set two national tournament records and equalled two. He was also named best all Round Compound Male Archer from the National Championships.